

Prince Edward County, which at the time was blatantly flouting Brown v. Board of Education requirements. Robert Kennedy, then-Attorney General, personally tracked Bill's work, noticed his record of success in integrating Maryland's schools, and the two became close friends.

There was another leader, Jimmy Carter, who had asked Bill to represent America abroad as Ambassador to the European Office of the United Nations, which kicked off Bill's storied diplomatic career. His diplomatic accomplishments are too long to go through in one speech, but through his work, he became a vocal and prominent advocate for the United Nations and the work that it does to address pressing global issues.

Bill also remained committed to solving problems at home. He was a renaissance man, a true polymath, and a staunch civil rights advocate. For years, he helped lead the charge in New York City to reform its prisons. He became a crusader in the city. He tackled the squalid conditions of confinement, and he feared no one in his efforts to speak for the voiceless and make sure that even the most hardened criminals were treated like human beings. It is a big part of his legacy as well.

And in his later life, when I got to know him, he returned to his first love. Bill vanden Heuvel started and led the Franklin Eleanor Roosevelt Institute, and he championed the long fight to establish the Four Freedoms Park on Roosevelt Island. That park will stand forever as a testament to both the majesty of Franklin Roosevelt and the patriotism of Bill vanden Heuvel.

Finally, though an obituary of a great man like Bill is filled with public accomplishment, for his friends and family, it is his private accomplishment which defined his true greatness. His wife Melinda and his daughters, Katrina and Wendy, and his stepchildren, Ashley and John, know him as a kind and loving husband and father. And the literally thousands of young public servants and reformers and diplomats that he mentored over the years, they are grateful for the time he took to midwife the hopes and dreams of others.

I am one of these people. Bill took me under his wing early in my public service career. It is his advice I turned to over and over, especially in my early years in Congress, as I set my own course and picked my own battles. So, above all, Bill's family and friends will miss him dearly.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

CHILD TAX CREDIT

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, first I want to recognize my colleague from Connecticut, his moving tribute to a great American, and also thank him for his steadfast leadership on issues of gun safety in this country.

I am standing here with my colleagues today to talk about what is

going on in this country around empowering children. We have a big thing happening tomorrow with the vast majority of families with kids across the country.

As of tomorrow, they will start seeing more money in their bank accounts every year for the rest of the year. These payments are the result of changes that we have made to the child tax credit, which was signed into law by President Biden as part of the American Rescue Plan because of the changes we advocated for.

What President Biden made law, more families and children are going to benefit from the child tax credit. More than ever before in history, in fact, this will be the greatest cut in overall child poverty in the history of America for this coming year.

So starting tomorrow, 90 percent of kids in America—90 percent of their families across the country—will start to see these payments for the rest of this year, up to \$300 for every child in a household under 6 and \$250 for every child in the household ages 6 through 17. For families in suburbs and cities and rural areas, for families across the country, this policy is transformative.

For the family of people with essential workers in Florida, the grandmother raising three children in California, a single mom in Pennsylvania working the same job for 20 years, for a parent in Utah—you can go on and on and on—this is one of the most transformative policy changes made in our Nation in more than a century.

This policy means stability. It means help is on the way. It means hope is here.

In my home State, Margarita from Passaic, NJ, who is raising three kids on her own while working two jobs, one before sunrise, starting tomorrow, she will see hundreds of dollars a month to help her pay the electric bill, help her make rent, and help her children succeed in school.

For the family of two educators with kids in New York, tomorrow is transformative. Washington State, North Dakota, blue State, so-called red State—all over this country, we are seeing a transformation.

This is what a mom from Kansas said:

[This child tax credit] would help so much for single moms like me to be able to feel secure as a parent. If at any time something were to happen to me, such as a car repair, a doctor visit, even a book fair for my children, I am just not making enough to have any extra for anything other than bills. Shoes and coats, maybe a ball glove. Karate or dance lessons to improve social skills and athletic abilities and teach children teamwork would be possible; [and] maybe even at Christmas since they didn't get one in 2020.

For middle-class families trying to stay afloat, lower income families desperate to make ends meet, and families living in poverty struggling to put food on the table, tomorrow is a new start. For millions of Americans across the country, from this body, our President, tomorrow will begin a historically unparalleled moment.

Senator BROWN, Senator BENNET, Senator WARNOCK, and I, along with our House colleagues, are going to continue to do what must be done. This change for this year—cutting child poverty, empowering millions of families, 90 percent of whom with kids will see a benefit—we must make this permanent. I will fight alongside my colleagues to see that this is not a one-time benefit for 1 year but a permanent change that we—change our status. We are the 36th wealthiest Nation on the planet, and we are 4th from the bottom in child poverty. We are second to last in terms of child allowances. We in America have to make this country live up to its promise to every child that we are the cornerstone of the idea of the American dream; that we are the most fertile soil for which a child could thrive; that we love our children not just in words but in the policies we make. This is a historic moment.

The one thing I will say to anyone listening to my words, because, as my colleague knows, some families are eligible but might not benefit, please, we need to make sure that portal—that people know to go to childtaxcredit.gov to get the information. All of us have an obligation to help everyone avail themselves of this policy. I believe, God willing, we will make it permanent.

I now turn to my colleague Senator BENNET from Colorado, Mr. President, with your permission.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, we are all here today—I want to say on this floor how much I love my colleagues from New Jersey and from Ohio who are here with me today on the floor to celebrate this incredibly important milestone.

I love you for your commitment to the country and for your commitment to our kids.

I want to wish your brother well because I know that he is recovering from his stroke, and you are still taking time to be here on the floor to make sure that people who need it the most hear about this tax credit. I want to thank you for that.

I have heard the Senator from Ohio, just like the Senator from New Jersey, talk about the lives of real people in their States. I have sat in the chair where the Presiding Officer is, listening to Senator BROWN talk about families in Ashtabula or Zanesville or Dayton or Cleveland or Cincinnati or Toledo and what the policies that we pass in this body either—you know, the difference they make or very often the difference they don't make to real people at home, to the people you work for and represent in Newark.

I think about a mom, I say to my colleague from Colorado, the Presiding Officer, a mom in Rifle, CO, who was in an early childhood center there, and she was so happy to be there. The other

moms were happy to be there, too, because until they had that early childhood center, they had to drive 30 miles to Glenwood Canyon to get to Glenwood Springs to put their kid in daycare so they could work, and now they could actually have it in their community. What she said to me was this: I work so I can have health insurance. Every single dollar I make goes to pay for this early childhood center so I can work.

It is that triangle that so many Americans are caught in because we have had an economy that for 50 years has worked really well for the top 10 percent and not for anybody else in America. For too long, it seemed like Washington wasn't paying any attention to that. I mean, what was our solution to that? To spend \$5.6 trillion on two wars in the Middle East that lasted for 20 years? To come to this floor to cut taxes not for working people, not for the people who needed it, but for the wealthiest people in the country at a time when our income inequality was higher than it was at any time since before the Great Depression? It made no sense.

It was like if the mayor of Denver—who the Presiding Officer used to be, so let's just imagine that for a second—it is as if the mayor of Denver said to the people of Denver: We are going to borrow more money than we have ever borrowed.

I would say, as a concerned citizen of Denver, to the mayor: That worries me. I would like to know what you are spending it on. Are you spending it on parks?

Nope.

Mental health services? We certainly need those.

Nope.

Homeless?

Nope.

Our roads and our bridges?

No.

Schools?

No.

You are borrowing all this money. What are you spending it on?

The mayor would have said: Well, I am going to give the money we are borrowing to the two richest neighborhoods in Denver and expect that somehow it is going to trickle down to everybody else.

That sounds crazy, but that was the Bush tax policy. That is the Trump tax policy, sixty-five percent of that bill for what he called the middle class going to the top 5 percent in America. That is why this is such a new day.

I have said on this floor before that it is long past time that we started treating America's children like they are our children and that we wouldn't accept the conditions so many kids live in unless we thought they were someone else's children.

This country, as the Senator from New Jersey has said before, is 38 out of 41 industrialized countries in terms of childhood poverty. In other words, we have the 38th worst childhood poverty

in the industrialized world. Only three countries are worse than we are. The poorest population in America? Our children. And we have some of the lowest economic mobility of any country in the industrialized world. We tell ourselves we are the land of opportunity, but we haven't looked like that for a very long time, and the policies that have been passed here haven't helped. That is where the child tax credit comes into being.

We increased it to \$3,000, \$3,600 for kids under the age of 6. We made it fully refundable so the poorest kids, the millions of poor kids who have never benefited from the tax credit before because their parents made too little money, now have the benefit of it, and it is going to be paid out starting tomorrow on a monthly basis. So when families are making decisions about how to pay the rent, put a little food on the table, buy a few hours of daycare so that they can stay at work and earn a living, they will be able to do it. So they can work, as the Senator from Ohio so eloquently said, with dignity.

In my view, this should be just the beginning of creating an economy that, when it grows, grows for everybody, not just for the people at the very top. It strengthens our democracy by giving everybody a sense that they have a real stake in the economy and that their kids are going to be able to live a brighter life than the life they live. That is what it is supposed to be in America.

I am grateful to stand here today with my two colleagues and with the Presiding Officer to say that finally, finally, with this President, we are treating America's children like they are America's children, and we don't have to accept chronic childhood poverty as a chronic feature of our economy or our democracy. We can have an ambition that is greater than that for our country and for our children, and we can say to our kids: You are important to us. In some ways, you are all that matter to us, and the position we put you in to be able to get an education and contribute to society and help lead the country, participate in our economy, in our democracy, that is our priority, and that is what we care about.

I think that is President Biden's priority, and he has reflected it incredibly well in this policy.

I will turn it over to the Senator from Ohio just by saying that now we have to do the very hard and important work of making this a permanent part of our Tax Code so that we cut childhood poverty permanently in half in this country. I would like us to end childhood poverty in the United States. I think that would be a very worthy aspiration for all of us to have.

With that, I yield the floor to my wonderful colleague from Ohio, who has been an incredible leader on this from even before I was in the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. MICHAEL BENNET, thank you. You said this is a new day. I loved how you set that up. The mayor of Denver gets a tax cut or at least pours money into the richest neighborhoods in Denver, expecting that to trickle down or trickle out to help other neighborhoods and other people. It obviously doesn't work that way any more than the—I was going to say the Bush tax cut, but it has been their playbook for years. Whenever they get a majority, they give a tax cut to rich people, arguing it will trickle down. It never does. Senator BOOKER has been so articulate about that. As you say, Senator BENNET, it is a new day for this country.

I think the three of us think—and I think that Senator HICKENLOOPER, the Presiding Officer, has thought this, as have most Members of the Senate—that this is perhaps the most important thing we have done in this Senate in 25 years.

Tomorrow, parents across the country will check their bank accounts. Not all of them are going to know what CORY BOOKER, MICHAEL BENNET, and all of us did, but they are going to see, most importantly in many ways—maybe my religious faith teaches me this. It is almost better that these people have these—they get these checks in Cleveland and Akron and Mansfield, and they have no idea how they got them. They didn't know I had anything to do it as their Senator; they just know their lives are better.

Families will see \$250 or \$300 direct-deposited into their accounts every month for the next 6 months, and then they get the rest of the year in a lump sum. Then, as Senator BENNET and Senator BOOKER said, it is up to us to make this permanent.

In my State, 92 percent of the kids in the State are eligible. We have a great majority—at least, we think, 90 percent of them will see these checks this week either in their bank account or in their mailbox. We have to make sure we get the other children who are eligible. Their parents may not have filed a tax return, and those families need to go to [childtaxcredit.gov](https://www.irs.gov/childtaxcredit) to make sure they get this benefit.

Even before this pandemic, we all know hard work wasn't paying off for millions of workers. We have seen in the last 20 years that productivity has gone up. Corporate profits have exploded. CEO pay has soared almost unimaginably. Yet wages have essentially been flat. That has gone on for decades even though the cost of everything is up, especially the cost of raising children.

Our child tax credit recognizes the fact that raising children is work. It happens to be the most—maybe it is not compensated the same way, but it happens to be the most important work any family can do. But from childcare to health insurance, to transportation, we have seen that a hard day's work doesn't begin to cover expenses for so many parents, and even middle-class families don't feel stable.

As a result, 2 weeks ago, we were out of session, and I spent the week in Fremont, in Defiance, in Cleveland, and in Columbus, Dayton, Cincinnati, Youngstown, and Toledo talking to people about the child tax credit. The stories I heard from people—these were mostly parents who will benefit. These are some community activists whose kids may have been grown or don't have kids. But the stories I heard, things like—Senator BENNET and I had a discussion with people from Denver and Cleveland one day on Zoom a couple weeks ago, too, and we heard over and over that parents were saying: Every month we just have to figure out, during the last week of the month, how are we going to pay our rent.

Now those families will have a little more comfort in knowing and less anxiety knowing they will be able to make their rent payment.

I heard a number of parents say: Well, now I can send my son, for the first time, to scout camp or to day camp during the summer. Other parents said: I don't have to choose between the food we need to buy and buying diapers. I don't have to reuse diapers.

All the kinds of stories, we heard. People were saying: I don't have to work that second job and be away at night. I can get daycare on my regular job and get the benefits and have a little money so that I can do these things.

And the stories are as limitless as the number of people who are involved.

And maybe the best part of this—and MICHAEL and CORY and I have talked about it. Maybe the best part of this is we have SNAP benefits. We know that is important for hungry families. We know the hungry people and the children especially. We do the rental assistance, emergency rental. We know how important that is. But these dollars—this \$250 or \$300 a month, it goes to families, and they make the decision about what they need. I don't make it.

The senior Senator or the junior Senator—even though the junior Senator is older, right, than the senior Senator? I am confused.

But the Senators from Colorado don't make the decision. The Senator from New Jersey and I don't make the decision. These decisions are made by the mothers and fathers who go to their mailbox and get this check or see it in their direct payment.

So we know that this is not just good for those families. It means dollars in their pockets. It means they can make decisions they couldn't have made. It means they can build a foundation for their own children to have more opportunity—all of that. But this is also really good for the community. It means more dollars are spent at local restaurants, more dollars are spent at local stores. So that is an important part of this, too, that it will help to lift up our economy.

Families aren't putting this money in a Swiss bank account, unlike the tax

cuts that Senator BENNET talked about with the Trump tax cuts that every Republican supported, virtually, and that blew a hole in the budget. That money was put in Swiss bank accounts. It doesn't trickle down. This money is spent in the community.

This is how we grow the economy. This is how we invest in the people who make it work. We don't shovel tax cuts to the very top and hope it trickles down. We know it never does. With these tax credits, we show parents and workers: We are on your side.

We won't stop fighting until these tax credits are permanent. Senators BOOKER and BENNET have talked passionately and persuasively about that.

I would add a couple other thanks here. Two of my staff are sitting in the back of this hall, Katie Mulhall and Chad Bolt, who have made this tax, working with Senator BENNET's and Senator BOOKER's and Senator WARNOCK's staff—in making these tax cuts to reduce the poverty rate and making this happen this session with President Biden's active support.

I also would call out two staff people, one of whom is still in the office and one who is now working in the House of Representatives, Jeremy Hekhuis and Gideon Bragin, who began work on this in 2013, when we first started working with ROSA DELAURO and the work that she had done. I thank all of them for making this happen.

I especially thank my colleagues from Colorado and Georgia and New Jersey. We keep fighting to give these families the peace of mind that these tax credits will be there for them up until their children are 18 so they can raise their kids with a little less anxiety and a little more comfort and a whole lot more opportunity.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I just was so inspired by—I am only going to be 1 minute—something Senator BROWN said in his remarks about his staff that I also want to mention Charlie Anderson, who is no longer with me because he quit me to go work for the administration. But if it hadn't been for him, I would be very surprised if we would all be here today. So I wanted to say thank you to Charlie for never giving up on this and for holding me accountable as we did the work together.

I also am not going to address the issue about junior versus senior Senators from Colorado, just to observe what a wonderful delegation it is we have from the State of Colorado.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

NOMINATION OF DAVID H. CHIPMAN

Mr. BRAUN. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to oppose the confirmation of David Chipman, President Biden's nominee for Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Many Hoosiers are concerned about the nomination of Mr. Chipman, and

rightfully so. His statements have made one thing clear: If confirmed, he will fail to uphold the constitutional right to bear arms.

He has stated under oath that he supports mandatory Federal registration of common semiautomatic firearms and ultimately supports a ban on AR-15 rifles.

Semiautomatic sporting rifles can be found in the homes of millions of law-abiding Americans, Hoosiers included, who use them for hunting, recreational shooting, and defending their families.

The ATF has a responsibility to clearly articulate its decisions to the public. In his confirmation hearing, Mr. Chipman revealed that he is not able to articulate what an assault rifle even is. His beliefs represent, in my opinion, a direct attack on our Second Amendment rights.

It is no surprise that organizations that have never opposed an ATF nominee before are loudly opposing the nomination of David Chipman.

Mr. Chipman's nomination comes as the ATF is already in need of more accountability for politicized decisions. American gun owners, manufacturers, and small business owners deserve clarity and the right to appeal politicized decisions made by the ATF.

Currently, the ATF engages in a secretive, behind-the-scenes classification review process to decide if a firearm will be regulated by the National Firearms Act. No law-abiding American should have to wonder if they are going to suddenly be made a criminal by a bureaucratic decision. It doesn't make sense.

That is why I joined Representative DAN CRENSHAW in the House to introduce the ATF Accountability Act. Law-abiding gun manufacturers and small businesses should be able to appeal the legal status of classifications within a regular timeframe.

I yield the floor at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I want to thank my friend and colleague Senator BRAUN for leading this important discussion on protecting Second Amendment rights for Montanans and for all Americans.

Today, President Biden and CHUCK SCHUMER are propping up yet another very controversial nominee, one who far from unites us as Americans—rather, another nominee who divides us further. Sadly, we are witnessing a complete disregard for our Constitution.

The Constitution could not be clearer. Now, I know my Democratic colleagues may want to say it otherwise, but it is clear—it is very clear when it says—and I have my pocket Constitution here. It says, "the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." It is very strong and very clear language. Montanans and the American people are guaranteed this right, as protected in our Constitution.

Despite this, we have seen President Biden and far-left Democrats abandon